

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 703.

The following Despatches relative to the services rendered by the Hongkong Volunteers in connection with the occupation of the New Territory, which were laid before the Legislative Council on the 14th instant, are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th December, 1899.

(*Governor to Secretary of State.*)

No. 265.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 15th September, 1899.

SIR,

In my despatch No. 107 of 28th April, I regret to find that in the account of the events connected with the occupation of the New Territory I omitted to mention the services of the Hongkong Volunteers.

2. Having received information on the 16th April that there was a project on foot for attacking the Yaumati Suburb and Kowloon from the Castle Peak direction and finding that large numbers of Chinese had been observed at Castle Peak with banners, &c., I requested the Naval Authorities to send a vessel of war to the Yaumati side of Kowloon Peninsula, there to keep her search light on the northern shore, and another to Kowloon Bay, to search the Chinese city with her light, while the Officer in Command of the Troops was requested to send a strong patrol to the Kowloon peninsula.

3. A considerable portion of the Garrison was away at Táipó-hü with Major-General GASCOIGNE, and after consultation I agreed with Colonel ELSDALE, R.E., that having regard to the peculiar condition of Hongkong it would not be prudent to further reduce the regular Garrison. I therefore ordered that the duty should be entrusted to the Hongkong Volunteers, and having regard to the fact that the order was issued only at 10 p.m., I think the Hongkong Volunteers deserve credit for the large muster that was able to march off at 10.45 p.m. How the duty was performed the attached report will show. The result of the practical demonstration of the utility of the force has been shown by the increase in numbers of the Corps from 120 to 350 men. At their present strength and constituted as they are I agree with the Major-General Commanding that the Hongkong Volunteers form a valuable addition to the strength of the Garrison.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

The Right Honourable
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.

(*Enclosure in Governor's despatch to Secretary of State of 15th September, 1899.*)

VOLUNTEERS.
REPORT ON DISTURBANCES
IN KOWLOON TERRITORY.

From Captain W. St. C. Bland, R.A., Adjutant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, to Major M. M. Morris, R.A., Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

HONGKONG, 11th September, 1899.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions received from the Chief Staff Officer, and in the absence of Colonel R. B. MAINWARING, C.M.G., late Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, I have the honour to submit the following report on the calling out of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on the evening of 16th April, 1899.

At 10 p.m. on the above date orders were received from Colonel MAINWARING for 3 Maxim Guns manned by the "A" Machine Gun Company with an escort from the Field Battery to parade at Volunteer Head Quarters at 10.30 p.m. ready to march off.

4,000 rounds ammunition per Machine Gun, and 30 rounds per Carbine were taken.

The above detail under command of Captain A. CHAPMAN, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, marched off at 10.45 p.m. to Pedder's Wharf. They were here joined by $\frac{1}{2}$ Company Royal Welch Fusiliers.

At 11.30 p.m. the whole force under Colonel MAINWARING, C.M.G., embarked on board 2 launches and proceeded to Tsim Tsa Tsui which was reached about midnight.

On arrival the guns and escort were immediately disembarked and marched to the North end of Yaumati where the following dispositions were made by Colonel MAINWARING :—

1 gun under Lieut. F. MAITLAND and Lieut. M. W. SLADE, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, and provided with an escort from Royal Welch Fusiliers and Field Battery, Hongkong Volunteer Corps was placed off the new Road (Station Street) between Ma-ti and Mong-kok-tsui, commanding all approaches from the North and East.

1 gun under Captain A. CHAPMAN, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, and accompanied by Lieut. G. C. FULLERTON, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, with an escort from the Field Battery Hongkong Volunteer Corps, was placed on the road to the North of the Pumping Station commanding approaches from Kowloon City.

1 gun under "A" Coy. Sergeant-Major F. SMYTH, and escort Royal Welch Fusiliers were placed in the vicinity of the Yaumati Police Station to command approaches from the direction of the Rifle Ranges.

These approaches were further held by Detachments of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The Yaumati Police Station was told off as the temporary Head Quarters of the Force, and Hospital arrangements were here made by Surgeon-Captain J. A. LOWSON, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Picquets were placed to hold important points, not under fire of the Machine Guns, and Patrols from both the Royal Welch Fusiliers and Field Battery, Hongkong Volunteer Corps were sent out to patrol the approaches some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the front.

Nothing occurred during the night, and at 6 a.m. next morning the force re-embarked at Yaumati Police Pier for Hongkong.

The members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps present on parade were as follows :—

	Staff.	Field Battery.	"A" Machine-Gun Company.
Officers,.....	3	2	2
Non-Commissioned Officers and Men,	2	59	26
	—	—	—
Total,	5	61	28

Grand Total all Ranks 94.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. ST. C. BLAND, Captain, R.A.,

Adjutant,

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

(Secretary of State to Governor.)

HONGKONG.
No. 248.

DOWNING STREET,
26th October, 1899.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 265 of the 15th ultimo relative to the services rendered by the Hongkong Volunteers in connection with the occupation of the New Territory.

2. I have read this despatch with interest and satisfaction, and I highly appreciate the readiness with which the Volunteers responded to the call to duty.

3. I have caused a copy of this correspondence to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for War.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor

Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.